

# **7. Inspection, Labeling, and Security of Shipments**

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## **7.1 Are rail shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel inspected before they leave their port of entry?**

Before rail shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel leave the port of entry, personnel from DOT's Federal Railroad Administration, a DOE Radiological Assistance Program team, the NRC, and the state in which the port is located may inspect the containers. Inspectors from the Federal Railroad Administration, the rail carrier, and, in some cases, a state agency inspect the track and rail cars and equipment before the train leaves the port. In addition, before the first shipment on a new rail route, the Federal Railroad Administration, the rail carrier, and, in some cases, a state agency inspect rail crossings, switches, and signals.

Before departure from the port, the shipping agent checks the shipping papers, which include radiological information, a description of the shipment's contents, and the weight of the contents and casks.

## **7.2 Are shipping containers and vehicles that carry foreign research reactor spent fuel specially labeled?**

Shipping containers for foreign research reactor spent fuel must carry labels on opposite ends of the package indicating the containers' contents and the contents' radioactivity level.

Trains and trucks carrying radioactive materials, including foreign research reactor spent fuel, must bear placards on the front, rear, and both sides indicating that their contents are radioactive. In addition, carriers must display a white square behind each of the four placards. The white square indicates that the shipments must be transported as a Highway Route Controlled Quantity (HRCQ), a designation given to shipments of spent fuel and other highly radioactive materials.

### **7.3 Who accompanies shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel as they travel from their ports of entry to INEEL or the Savannah River Site?**

DOE provides a satellite tracking/communications expert and armed escorts on the train to accompany rail shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel. In addition, a DOE Radiological Assistance Program response vehicle tracks and typically stays in the general area of shipments. Radiological Assistance Program teams consist of personnel trained to help respond to and coordinate activities related to incidents involving radioactive materials. State police often escort spent fuel shipments, particularly highway shipments, to their destination.

### **7.4 Are state, tribal, or local authorities along shipment routes notified when foreign research reactor spent fuel is scheduled to pass through their jurisdictions?**

At least seven days before arrival of a shipment of foreign research reactor spent fuel, DOE notifies state and tribal governments along the shipment route. State authorities may notify local authorities, as appropriate, along the route.

### **7.5 Is the public notified when shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel are scheduled to pass through their communities?**

To safeguard shipments, NRC regulations prohibit notifying the public of the timing of shipments of foreign research reactor spent fuel. Information about shipping routes, however, is available to the public.